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Mother's Day
Sunday, May 10

WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

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TLW crusade takes message to U.S. Capitol

WASHINGTON (BP and local reports) — Some of the most powerful people in the country — if not the world — got a loud and clear message on the value of sexual abstinence until marriage when True Love Waits (TLW) staffers and a pair of Virginia teenagers went to Capitol Hill on April 21-22.

In Washington, the group made rounds visiting U.S. Surgeon General David Satcher, U.S. Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott of Mississippi and 11 other U.S. senators and members of the House of Representatives to educate them on the successes of the five-year-old TLW movement.

Lott is a member of First Church, Pascagoula.

The TLW entourage included high school seniors Monica DePaz and Brad Tomas, both of whom have pledged sexual abstinence, and Richard Ross, Jimmy Hester, and Clyde Hall of the Sunday School Board (SSB) of the Southern Baptist Convention.

DePaz and Tomas are youth members of Columbia Church, Falls Church, Va.

True Love Waits is an international campaign, started in 1993 by SSB, that challenges teens and college students to remain sexually abstinent until marriage.

In each of the meetings, the group briefed Washington officials on the history of the TLW movement, told them what is happening with the campaign today, and allowed the teens to

present the reasons they decided to take the TLW pledge of sexual abstinence until marriage.

Texas had the highest number of youth making TLW commitments with 8,109; Mississippi came in second with 8,082, while Georgia made third with 6,876.

During two national TLW

al visibility to sexual abstinence at a time when many young people were saying, 'We're not all sexually active. There is a better way,' Ross said.

"True Love Waits emerged as a youth-based campaign originating with teenagers and conducted today by teenagers and college students," he said.

Discipleship and Family Ministry Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, led a TLW delegation that visited recently with Mississippi Gov. Kirk Fordice.

In Oklahoma, James Lankford, youth ministry specialist for the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, said

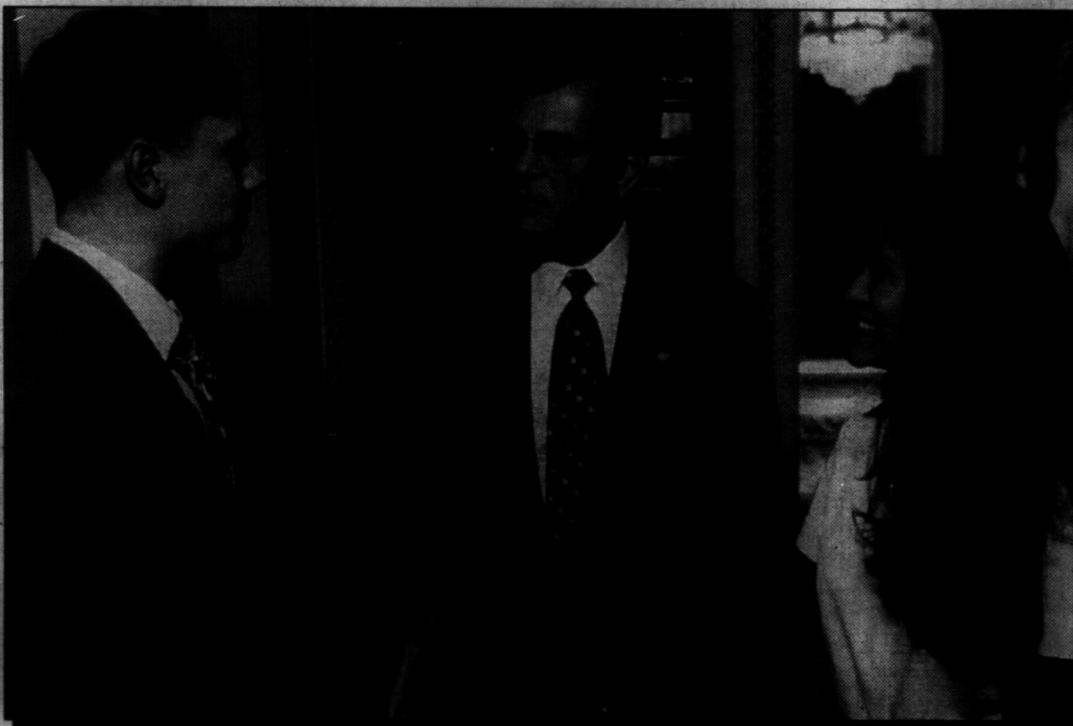
he was able to meet with the governor and almost all the senators and representatives. His group received a standing ovation in senate chambers for its work in sexual abstinence.

In Texas, Chris Liebrum, a consultant for Baptist General Convention of Texas and a group met with Gov. George Bush.

"Gov. Bush is a strong supporter of abstinence-based education and has done wonderful things in that area. He is in full support of our efforts and position."

Following the meeting, Liebrum said the group and Bush met in the governor's outer office where he presented a report of TLW pledges in Texas before a group of about "20-25 media folks. He responded with the same support he had given us in his private office."

State leaders in Alabama, South Carolina, New Jersey, New Mexico, Florida, Missouri, Georgia, Indiana, Oregon and Washington, among others, were attempting to meet with officials from their states to talk with them about True Love Waits.



LOTT, TEENS TALK — U.S. Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, a member of First Church, Pascagoula, talks with high school seniors Brad Tomas and Monica DePaz, both of Falls Church, Va., about their personal commitment to sexual abstinence before marriage. The True Love Waits group caught Lott as he was leaving Senate chambers at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. (BP photo by Jim Veneman)

gatherings — one in Washington in 1994 and another in Atlanta in 1996 — 210,000 and 340,000 cards were displayed, respectively.

Ross said to date 80 denominations have endorsed True Love Waits, and the campaign is active in 60-100 countries.

"The campaign gave nation-

Meanwhile, several Baptist state leaders across the nation met with their governors or top-ranking officials in April providing them with numbers of teenagers who made pledges of sexual abstinence in their states during the Feb. 13 True Love Waits Goes Campus event.

Wes Pegues, consultant in the

Baptist Bookstores/ Lifeway Christian Stores Best Sellers

Paperback

1. Five Love Languages, Gary Chapman (Moody)
2. Stories From the Heart, Alice Gray (Multnomah)
3. Daily Wisdom for Women, Fitzpatrick (Barbour)
4. E. M. Bounds on Prayer, E. M. Bounds (Whitaker House)
5. When I'm On My Knees, Anita Donihue (Barbour)
6. Morning and Evening, Charles Spurgeon (Whitaker House)
7. Just As I Am, Billy Graham (Zondervan)
8. 15 Minutes Alone with God, Emilie Barnes (Harvest House)
9. First Place, Carole Lewis (B&H)
10. More Stories From the Heart, Various (Multnomah)

Looking back

10 years ago

Paul G. Jones II, executive director of the Christian Action Commission of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, is elected to a two-year term as president of the Mississippi Council on Family Relations during the group's annual meeting.

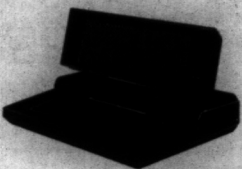
20 years ago

U.S. President Jimmy Carter challenges more than 200 prominent Southern Baptist laypeople to seize an "unprecedented" opportunity to support the newly formed Mission Service Corps as part of the Bold Mission Thrust effort to evangelize the world.

50 years ago

B. S. Hilburn assists Calvary Church, Pascagoula, and pastor M. S. Varnado in a revival meeting which resulted in 42 additions. In pastor Varnado's 28 months of ministry, there have been over 600 additions to the church's rolls.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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Following the Lord in an unsafe world

In the most ominous way possible, a single act has once again reminded us of both the urgency and the danger of answering Christ's call to take the Gospel to the far reaches of the world.

Charles W. "Charley" Hood, 44, an 11-year veteran of Southern Baptist International Mission Board (IMB) work in Colombia, was gunned down April 21 within hearing distance of his family outside their home in Bogota.

Hood's wife Becky said that just minutes after her husband walked out of their house at about 3 p.m. to make a short trip to the bank, she heard a shout and a gunshot. She raced outside and discovered her husband in his truck, mortally wounded in the chest. A pair of men on a motorcycle was spotted speeding away from the scene.

El Canoso — "the gray-haired one," as his Colombian friends called him — was laid to rest in Kansas City a few days later. He leaves behind his wife, an 11th-grade daughter living at home, and a son attending Ouachita Baptist University in Arkansas.

Charley Hood was one of us, a product of our churches and institutions. He grew up in Missouri Baptist churches, and later served as a minister in several churches in that state. He graduated from Southwest Baptist University, a Missouri Baptist institution, and Midwestern Seminary, a Southern Baptist institution.

His father-in-law, Paul Harvey, is the former Brotherhood Director for the Missouri Baptist Convention. Jim Hill, Missouri Baptist Convention executive director, was Hood's classmate when both were undergraduates at Southwest.

Some people would question the wisdom of sending 43 defenseless missionaries and family members into such a hostile place.

Colombia has one of the highest murder

rates anywhere — 81 deaths per 100,000 people. That's more than nine times the murder rate in the United States, which is outrageously high.

Other people would say Charley Hood was taking too great a risk. In a worldly context, those observations are true — but Christians don't operate in a worldly context when it comes to obeying our Savior's call (Matt. 28:16-20).

Jesus was honest about the cost of following him (Mark 8:33-38, Luke 12:49-53, Luke 14:25-27, Luke 21:12-19). Yet there are those like Charley Hood who are willing to put themselves in harm's way for the sake of saving the world.

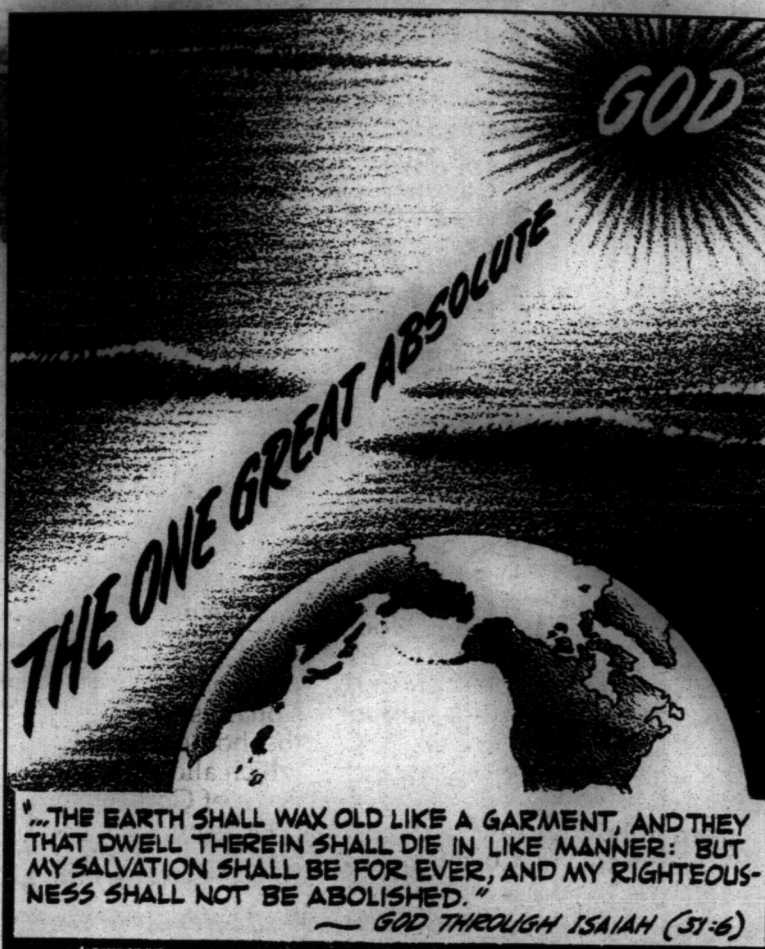
Firefighters understand why they risk their lives for people they don't know, when conventional wisdom would say, "Let it burn; it doesn't mean anything to you."

Law enforcement officers understand why they intercede in dangerous situations, when conventional wisdom would say, "Let 'em fight. They're both drunks anyway."

Physicians understand why they plunge their unprotected hands into a stranger's gaping wound during a roadside emergency, oblivious to the personal danger of contracting a blood-borne killer.

They all have a mission that drives them through life. What then, is not to understand about people like Charley Hood?

He too was racing to a fire in which he had no stake, to help people who couldn't help themselves, to heal mankind at enormous personal risk.



There are thousands more out there, just like him. They deserve our prayers and support — and nobody prays for and supports missionaries like Mississippi Baptists. It's time we stepped that up to the next level on their behalf.

Is it safe to follow the Lord's leading in your life?

Wendell Page, Missouri Baptist Convention president and Charley Hood's former pastor, provides the answer to that question: "My reaction is that it is unsafe not to serve where the Lord wants you to go."

May our lives, like Charley Hood's life, be a perfect reflection of that great truth.

GUEST OPINION:

Christian mothers: Spreading a little love

By Ann Knight Hawkins, member
Eastview Church, Laurel

get up and go again."

Her orthopedic surgeon even told her that she would always have to use a walker and her activities would be limited after such a severe injury.

They underestimated my mom! When she first came home from the hospital, she would

make one trip around the living room with her walker and be completely exhausted. Then it was ten times around, gradually over the whole house.

She never gave up! She no longer needs her walker and only uses a cane when away from home. We still make trips

to the mall as much as possible.

The first place she wanted to go after months of illness was to visit the old people. They get so lonely," she said.

She should know, as she was born July 7, 1915!

She is still teaching Sunday School and Sunday evening Bible study at

Eastview Church, Laurel.

She has never had her name in the paper. She has never received an award. Not many times has anyone paused to say, "Thank you for what you have taught me."

She never wanted recognition for what she did. She just did it

because she loved the Lord.

She is recovering from a bronchial infection and other medical problems, but she is already preparing a lesson for her class next week.

She told me once that she decided to quit teaching because no one was paying attention anyway.

Then one of the deacons came to her and said, "My three-year-old daughter came home from church last week and quoted a Scripture verse to me."

"She said you taught it to her. You will never know the results of your teaching, but God will. He's the only one that really matters."

Our Bible teaches us to go and tell and serve our fellow man whatever their needs.

If someone has greatly influenced your life, why not drop them a note and let them know?

A short visit and a hug might do even more good. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we all tried to remember to say "thanks," whether to your mom or dad or others who have helped you along your way?

If we all would spread a little Christian love, what a change we would see in our communities and churches!



Hawkins



Knight

\$1,000,000 check represents 'one of greatest nights'

By Carl M. White
Associate Editor

"This is one of the greatest nights in Mississippi Baptist life — at least that is my appraisal," said Bill Causey, executive director - treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB).

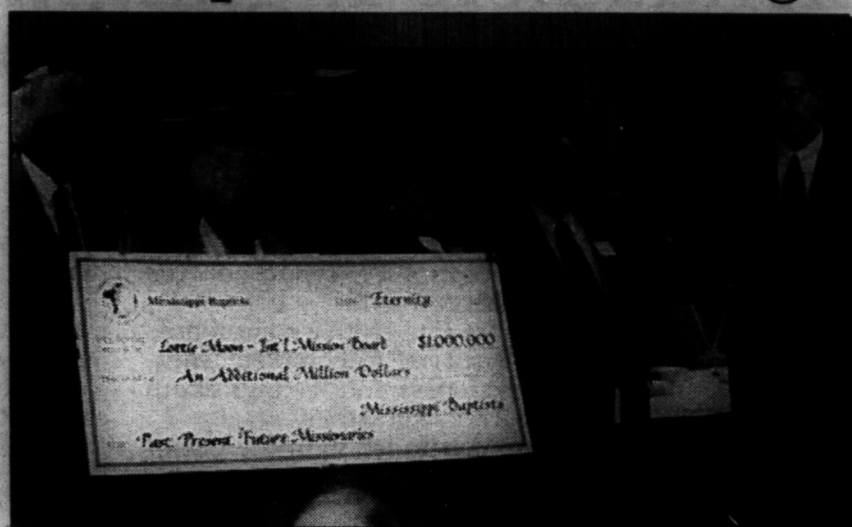
Causey was referring to the April 24 meeting of the Mississippi Missionary Parents Fellowship at Camp Garaywa in Clinton, where a display check in the amount of \$1,000,000 was presented.

The check represented money the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's executive committee approved Feb. 5 for the 1997 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions (LMCO), over and above the amount already given by the churches.

Causey told the missionary parents that the money was given in honor of:

- ♦ the concept of missions, which is "... like an arrow from the heart strings of God."

- ♦ those who do missions, including, "... those who heard that message and understood by faith the call to go, and those



MISSION GIFT — On hand for the April 24 presentation of a \$1,000,000 gift to foreign missions were (from left) Edd and Freeda Trott, retired SBC missionaries; Jeanette and Bill Sellers, parents of SBC missionaries; and Barri A. Shirley, MBCB business administrator.

who have supplied the missionaries by your teachings at the home, at the family altar, which allowed them to hear the voice of God."

Causey reported that for the 1997 LMCO, Mississippi once again leads in dollar increase over 1996, percent increase, and in per capita giving.

Mississippi is third in the actual dollar amount given, behind Texas and North Carolina.

"One dollar out of every ten given to the LMCO nationwide (for 1997) comes from the state of Mississippi," Causey announced.

He reported that the Southern Baptist International Mission Board (IMB) projects a 1997 LMCO of \$102,000,000.

"Mississippi has given \$10,684,178 — more than 10% — of the total LMCO," Causey said.

In addition, Causey told the

gathering of missionaries and parents that the MBCB executive committee authorized another quarter of a million dollars for "World A," IMB's Last Frontier.

The latest LMCO and World A gifts were part of a \$2.15 appropriation for missions work at home and overseas that the executive committee made on Feb. 5 at Causey's recommendation.

Part of the money comes from the challenge portion of the 1997 Mississippi Cooperative Program (CP) budget. The remainder comes from unencumbered reserves.

Unencumbered reserves are funds not specifically allocated by the convention board or designated by donors, such as the interest earned on investments and MBCB department funds returned from the previous budget year.



THE SECOND FRONT PAGE



Committee releases executive search plan

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

Nominations to replace retiring Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) executive secretary-treasurer Bill Causey will be accepted through June 4, according to Robert Upchurch, chairman of the MBCB executive committee that is also serving as the search committee for Causey's successor.

"We welcome Mississippi Baptists to submit nominations. Our desire is to know God's will, and in carrying out that desire

we ask every Mississippi Baptist to pray for the executive committee members by name — that we would all have a clear sense of the will of God," said Upchurch, a Tupelo attorney and member of Calvary Church, Tupelo.

The executive committee convened April 30 at the Baptist Building in Jackson to plan the search process, following Causey's April 20 announcement to the committee that he plans to retire at the end of September after nine years as MBCB executive director-treasurer.

Upchurch said the executive committee agreed that all nominations must be in

writing, must include the name, address, and telephone number of the nominee, and must be mailed to Upchurch at the following address: P. O. Drawer 409, Tupelo, MS 38802-0409.

Each nominee will be notified and asked to give prayerful consideration to the nomination and, if the Lord leads, submit a resume to the executive committee by June 18, according to Upchurch.

Other important deadlines will be set by the executive committee as the need arises after the June 18 submission of all resumes, he added.

A survey is also being designed to give the executive committee a suggested profile of the person Mississippi Baptists would like to have as their next executive secretary-treasurer. Mississippi pastors, directors of missions, and the 100 members of the convention board will be receiving the survey within the next two weeks, Upchurch said.

"We are vitally interested in the comments of all Mississippi Baptists. If a person wants to see the survey form, he/she can contact their convention board member, director of missions, or pastor," he pointed out.

Upchurch also said the executive committee has vested in him as chairman the role of spokesman during the search process, and all correspondence regarding the search process will originate with the chairman.

For more information on the search process, contact Upchurch at the address listed earlier in this article.



Upchurch



Causey

Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

1997-98 Executive Committee

Sue Dockery, member
Broadmoor Church, Jackson

Bob Simmons, member
Poplar Springs Dr. Church, Meridian

Curtis Guess, pastor
Weir Church, Weir

Dean Timbes, pastor
Hillcrest Church, New Albany

Frank Harmon, pastor
First Church, Newton

Robert Upchurch, member
Calvary Church, Tupelo

Bobby Kirk, member
Roundaway Ch., Doddsville

Johnny Walker, pastor
First Church, Winona

Kermit McGregor, pastor
First Church, Mendenhall

Kiely Young, pastor
First Church, Gulfport

Jerry Mixon, pastor
Rocky Creek Church, Lucedale

Ex officio members

Thad Moore, pastor
First Church, Holly Springs

Dean Register, president
Miss. Baptist Convention

Gary Richardson, pastor
First Church, West Point

David Sellers, pastor
Tylertown Church, Tylertown

Bill Causey, executive director
Miss. Baptist Convention Board



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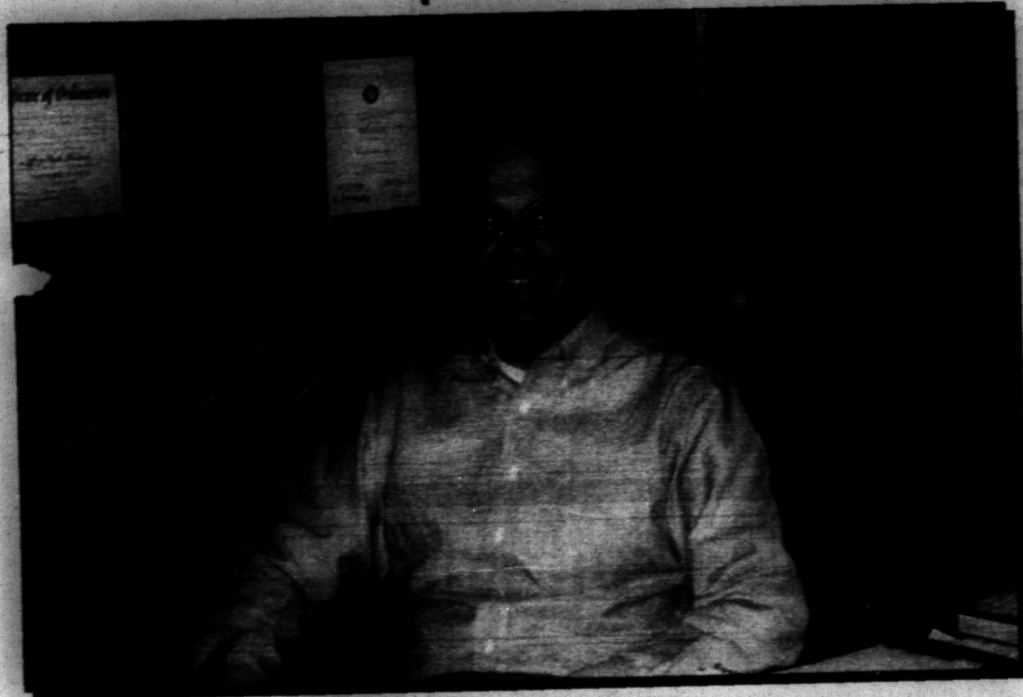
'LIFT' weekends help highlight ministries

By Carl M. White
Associate Editor

Jeff Holland, the new pastor of Oakhurst Church, Clarksdale, was looking through his daily mail when he came across a brochure from the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) about a "LIFT (Lay Involvement for Transforming) the Church" weekend.

"I thought, 'This looks to be the most contemporary, cutting edge thing that could be offered,'" Holland said.

He immediately contacted Julius Thompson, director of the MBCB Church Administration - Pastoral Ministries Department, to get more information.



Jeff Holland

Church tax forms due May 15

Church treasurers who thought their work was finished on April 15 have a surprise in store — May 15 is the filing deadline for Form 990-T and Form 5578.

Form 990-T, the unrelated business income tax return, must be filed by churches that had \$1,000 or more in gross income in 1997 from unrelated trade or business.

Form 5578, the annual certification of non-discrimination, must be filed by any church that operates a private school including preschools, primary/secondary schools, and colleges. Form 5578 must be submitted whether the school is operated by the church or a separate legal entity.

For more information, contact the Accounting and Personnel Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

"Then I found out it was free of charge. I knew immediately this was what our church needed," Holland said.

"LIFT the Church" weekends are the outgrowth of retiring MBCB executive director-treasurer Bill Causey's vision of helping to grow healthy Mississippi Baptist churches, according to Thompson.

A typical LIFT weekend involves a team of three MBCB consultants, the church's pastor and staff, and key leadership.

It begins on Saturday evening with a meal. The team then gives an overview of the weekend, presents a detailed statistical report of the church's last ten years, and details a demographics report of the church's local mission field.

Participants are also given a comprehensive evaluation survey to complete, measuring their awareness and feelings about the church's current ministries.

The evening concludes with the pastor sharing his vision for the growth of the church.

On Sunday morning, the LIFT team teaches Sunday School for youth and adults. During the morning worship hour, a member of the LIFT team brings the sermon.

A light lunch is provided by the church, and Sunday afternoon begins with interpretation of the survey results.

Later, participants are divided into three work groups who "ideastorm" about the potential ministry of the church.

After the work groups report to the assembled church members, the LIFT weekend is adjourned and the MBCB team departs.

The lead member of the MBCB team is assigned as a follow-up consultant for the church. This person works with the pastor, deacons, and other church leaders to develop a mission statement and priority ministry concerns for the immediate future.

The first LIFT weekend was conducted as a pilot project in August 1993 at Woodville Church in Mississippi Association. Dan Howard was pastor at the time.

"It was so good in helping us focus on ministry," Howard said. "It helped us get a vision for the community, to discover why we are there."

"The demographics presentation helped us see who was in the community, like the large African-American population. We knew about it, but we didn't know the facts."

As a result of the LIFT weekend,

Woodville Church wrote a mission statement and set goals, Howard indicated.

"We started trying to minister to African-Americans; started backyard Bible clubs and support groups; and did a spiritual gifts inventory using the Equipping Center Module. We also started some new Bible study units."

"It did more to get the whole church involved in planning ministries than anything else we had ever done," Howard said.

Howard was so sold on the LIFT concept that when he answered the call to pastor First Church, Philadelphia, in 1997, he became the first pastor in the state to hold two LIFT weekends.

"I felt it would be a good experience for Philadelphia, to give direction and focus on ministry," he said.

"I appreciate that the Baptist Building staff does not come in and tell us what to do. Rather, they provide a model for us to discover what God would have us do."

"It (LIFT weekends) has done something in the churches I have pastored that I don't think anything else can do. It caused us to look around and do soul searching about why we are there. I don't know of anything else that does this," Howard said.

Oakhurst Church's Holland agrees.

"Since that weekend, our people have begun to desire a vision. They realize that how we were doing things — going this way and that way, not moving together toward a common goal — was not going to cut it."

"We are putting together a 'dream team' — 10-20 laypeople to take the LIFT results, study them, and put together a mission statement and some priority concerns," Holland said.

Holland hopes that within six months to a year to have a mission statement and priority concerns in place.

"Our people are beginning to dream again," he said.

For more information "LIFT the Church" weekends, contact Thompson at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone 601-968-3800, or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

NOBTS playing key role in manuscript studies

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — What started as a simple "Yes" to a request in 1991 for help on a new edition of the Greek New Testament has grown into the establishment of a Center for New Testament Textual Studies on the New Orleans Seminary (NOBTS) campus.

Already internationally recognized for its productive and meticulous work with the International Greek New Testament Project (IGNTP), the Center for New Testament Textual Studies is coordinated by Bill Warren, NOBTS professor of New Testament and Greek and an NOBTS graduate from the master of divinity and doctor of theology degree programs.

In March Warren was named to the seminary's newly endowed Landrum P. Leavell II Chair of New Testament Studies, funding for which was completed during the seminary's spring trustee meeting.

Construction began this spring on a permanent home for the NOBTS Center for New Testament Textual Studies,

which houses a substantial number of microfilm manuscript copies, including working copies of the IGNTP collection.

"While New Orleans Seminary is not the only institution working on this international collation project, we are doing more work on this endeavor than any of the other schools, colleges, universities or seminaries in North America," Warren said.

Warren began work with the IGNTP in November 1991. His first assignment was to collate ("examine and compare carefully in order to note points of disagreement") previously uncollated minuscule (accent on second syllable; "a small cursive script used in the Middle Ages") manuscripts of the Gospel of John dating from 800-1500.

Having successfully completed that assignment, Warren, whose doctoral dissertation was on the subject of collation work, undertook more work for IGNTP in 1993, this time receiving six never-before-

collated manuscripts of the Gospel of John.

Warren recruited assistants from his department — fellow professors and several doctoral students — and went to work, not only setting the stage for New Orleans Seminary to become recognized worldwide for the research abilities of its professors and students, but also for their innovative methods for proceeding with the research.

They started off small, pretty much in a cubby-hole room on the second floor of the library that also was stacked with part of the seminary archives, and worked at their offices and homes.

Nonetheless, in that small, quiet, out-of-the-way space, Warren was working diligently, and was one of the first in the world to work with the IGNTP's computer database system for manuscript collation, a system which has revolutionized collators' abilities to enter, retrieve and tabulate the evidence found in manuscripts.

Previously everything was done by hand.

"Over the past few years we have generated more collations for the IGNTP than any institution in North America, not only because of the use of the computer database system for performing the collations, but also because of the persistence of our participants' efforts," Warren said.

So far, Warren and his assistants have completed nearly 70 collations. Precision is imperative; therefore, each manuscript must be collated three times, Warren said, to check and re-check for accuracy.

Currently he has in progress collations of about 50 more manuscripts.

Concerning the new home for the Center for New Testament Textual Studies, he said, "The new work area will serve not only as a spacious central study area for manuscript analysis, but also will enable us to attract scholars who may want to do textual studies during their sabbaticals."

WOMAN'S MISSIONARY UNION

Auxiliary to Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING

Salt Lake City • June 7-8, 1998

Salt Palace Convention Center • Ballrooms E/F/G/H, Level 1

THEME: Peace Builders

Sunday, June 7, 2:30 p.m.
JESUS CHRIST, PRINCE OF PEACE

Music for Worship: Max Lyall, Mill Valley, Calif.; Ron Davis, Shawnee, Okla.

"I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day," Cynthia Clawson, Houston

Peace Builders: *And He Will Be Their Peace*

Kathy Dewbre, International missionary, South Africa

Emory Lussi, North American missionary, Alpine, Wyo.

Nancy Norton, International missionary, Japan

Hymn: "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

Walk with Our Missionaries Through Prayer

Special Music: Cynthia Clawson

Call to Order: Wanda Lee, WMU president, Columbus, Ga.

Recognition of Missionaries

Hymn: "My Faith Has Found a Resting Place"

Special Music: Senior High and College Choir, First Church Center Point, Birmingham, Ala., Randall Hall, director

Acteers Panelists: including Chrissy Fortenberry, First Church, Brandon, Miss.

On the Cutting Edge in Missions: Jerry Rankin, president, International Mission Board, Richmond, Va.; Bob Reccord, president, North American Mission Board, Alpharetta, Ga.

Announcements

Peace Building: Brian Bakke, director of community ministries and New Flight Arts, Uptown Church, Chicago.

Peace Like a River

.....

Sunday, June 7, 7:00 p.m.
HE HAS CALLED US TO LIVE IN PEACE

Music for Worship: Max Lyall, Ron Davis

"I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day"—Cynthia Clawson

Peace Builders: *It is to Peace That God Has Called You*

Andrew Y. Chan, North American missionary, Arcadia, Calif.

Marlene Lee, International missionary, Rwanda

Sylva M. Rego, North American missionary, Margate, Fla.

Hymn: "Like a River Glorious"

Walk with Our Missionaries Through Prayer

Special Music: Cynthia Clawson

Message: *Let the Peace of Christ Rule In Your Hearts*—Fermin Whitaker, executive director, California Baptist Convention

Hymn: "Sunshine in My Soul"

Special Music: Senior High and College Choir—First Church, Center Point, Birmingham, Ala., Randall Hall, director

Announcements

Peace Building: Brian Bakke

Peace Like a River

.....

Monday, June 8, 9:30 a.m.
PEACEMAKERS SOWING THE SEEDS OF PEACE

Music for Worship: Max Lyall, Ron Davis

"I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day"—Cynthia Clawson

Peace Builders: *Our Common Task is Service in His Name*

Sheila D. Mitchell, North American missionary, Tulsa, Okla.

Sylva Rego, North American missionary, Florida

Stan Lee, International missionary, Rwanda

Hymn: "Oh Jesus, I Have Promised"

Walk with Our Missionaries Through Prayer

Special Music: Cynthia Clawson

Introduction of Local Committee: Bobbie Maberry, Kearns, Utah

WMU Executive Board Report: Dellanna O'Brien, executive director, WMU, SBC

Report: "House of Hope," Ann Fallaw, IMB associate for Eastern South America

Offering for Second Century Fund

Message: *Proclaiming Peace In Our Communities*, Barbara L. Oden, North American missionary, Las Vegas, Nev.

Hymn: "We Praise You, O God, Our Redeemer"

President's Address: Wanda Lee

Announcements

Peace Building: Brian Bakke

Peace Like a River

.....

Monday, June 8, 2:00 p.m.
PROCLAIMING PEACE ACROSS AMERICA

Music for Worship: Max Lyall, Ron Davis

"I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day"

Peace Builders: *Grant Peace in America*

Andrew Chan, North American missionary, California

Sheila Mitchell, North American missionary, Oklahoma

Emory Lussi, North American missionary, Wyoming

Hymn: "In Times Like These"

Walk with Our Missionaries Through Prayer

Special Music: Cynthia Clawson

Message: *Celebrate the Peace of Christ*—Beverly Scott, Orange, N.J., president of the North American Baptist Women's Union

Hymn: "America the Beautiful"

Election of Officers

Special Music: Ensemble, First Church, Del City, Okla., James Bradford, director

Message: *Proclaiming Peace Across America*, Brad Lartigue, NAMB missionary, Big Sky, Mont.

Announcements

Peace Building: Brian Bakke

Peace Like a River

.....

Monday, June 8, 9:30 a.m.
PEACEMAKERS SOWING THE SEEDS OF PEACE

Music for Worship: Max Lyall, Ron Davis

"I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day"—Cynthia Clawson

Peace Builders: *Our Common Task is Service in His Name*

Sheila D. Mitchell, North American missionary, Tulsa, Okla.

Monday, June 8, 1998, 7:00 p.m.
PROCLAIMING PEACE TO THE NATIONS

Music for Worship: Max Lyall, Ron Davis

"I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day"—Cynthia Clawson

Peace Builders: *Fill the Whole World With Heaven's Peace*

Stan and Marlene Lee, International missionaries, Rwanda

Steve and Kathy Dewbre, International missionaries, South Africa

Hymn: "We've a Story To Tell"

Walk with Our Missionaries Through Prayer

Special Music: Cynthia Clawson

Message: *Proclaim Peace in Bosnia*, Gale Hartley, International missionary, Bosnia

Hymn: "We Utter Our Cry"

Special Music: Ensemble, First Baptist Church, Del City, Okla., James Bradford, director

Message: *Proclaim Peace in Today's World*, Tony Campollo, author and speaker, St. Davids, Pa.

Peace Building: Brian Bakke

Peace Like a River

.....

Monday, June 8, 2:00 p.m.
PROCLAIMING PEACE ACROSS AMERICA

Music for Worship: Max Lyall, Ron Davis

"I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day"

Peace Builders: *Grant Peace in America*

Andrew Chan, North American missionary, California

Sheila Mitchell, North American missionary, Oklahoma

Emory Lussi, North American missionary, Wyoming

Hymn: "In Times Like These"

Walk with Our Missionaries Through Prayer

Special Music: Cynthia Clawson

Message: *Celebrate the Peace of Christ*—Beverly Scott, Orange, N.J., president of the North American Baptist Women's Union

Hymn: "America the Beautiful"

Election of Officers

Special Music: Ensemble, First Church, Del City, Okla., James Bradford, director

Message: *Proclaiming Peace Across America*, Brad Lartigue, NAMB missionary, Big Sky, Mont.

Announcements

Peace Building: Brian Bakke

Peace Like a River

.....

Monday, June 8, 9:30 a.m.
PEACEMAKERS SOWING THE SEEDS OF PEACE

Music for Worship: Max Lyall, Ron Davis

"I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day"—Cynthia Clawson

Peace Builders: *Our Common Task is Service in His Name*

Sheila D. Mitchell, North American missionary, Tulsa, Okla.

MC sets graduation speakers

U.S. Senate Majority Trent Lott (R.-Miss.) will be the guest speaker at the Mississippi College (MC) School of Law Hooding Ceremony at 2 p.m. on May 8 at First Church, Jackson.

Bernard J. Ebbers, MC trustee and president/chief executive officer of Clinton-based WorldCom, Inc., will be the featured speaker for the 172nd MC commencement at 10 a.m. on May 9 in Robinson-Hale Stadium on the school's Clinton campus.

In case of inclement weather, the May 9 commencement ceremonies will be held in A.E. Wood Coliseum on campus.

Ellison leaving for SBC WMU

Edna M. Ellison, Women on Mission consultant for the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) since 1995, has resigned to accept a similar position at Southern Baptist WMU national headquarters in Birmingham.

The South Carolina native came to Mississippi from California, where she served as executive director of the WMU/Women's Ministries Department of the California Southern Baptist Convention.

Her prior posts included stints as editor of "Royal Service" magazine for national WMU in Birmingham; guest instructor at Golden Gate Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif. and



Ellison

California College in Riverside, Calif.; and high school/college English instructor.

She holds a doctorate in education from the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa.

Ellison has also written over 500 articles in religious, educational, and professional publications, including "Who Is My Neighbor?" Bible study for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, "Take Five" devotional book for teenagers, and the WMU Base Curriculum Design.

Ellison and her husband, the late J. Theodore Ellison, have two adult children: Jack Martin Ellison of Jackson and Patsy Ellison Farmer of Union, S.C.

Nominations committee set to begin filling MBC boards, commissions

The Committee on Nominations of the Mississippi Baptist Convention (MBC) is soliciting recommendations for individuals to serve on MBC boards and commissions, according to David Raddin, committee chairman and pastor of First Church, Yazoo City.

A limited number of vacancies will be filled on:

- ◆ Board of Ministerial Education
- ◆ Christian Action Commission
- ◆ Education Commission
- ◆ Historical Commission
- ◆ Baptist Children's Village
- ◆ Miss. Baptist Health Systems, Inc. (Jackson)
- ◆ Baptist Memorial Health Care System, Inc. (Memphis)
- ◆ Blue Mountain College
- ◆ Mississippi College

- ◆ William Carey College
- ◆ Miss. Baptist Convention Board.

Nomination forms can be obtained from the Office of the Executive Secretary-Treasurer, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

"The nominating committee will work in conjunction with the heads of institutions and agencies in bringing a list of nominees to be approved by the messengers at the 1998 annual meeting of the MBC," Raddin said.

The 1998 MBC annual meeting will be held Oct. 27-28 at First Church, Jackson. Members of cooperating Mississippi Baptist churches who wish to serve as messengers should contact their pastor or church office.

NAMES IN THE NEWS



Bob Taylor was ordained to the ministry April 5 by Trinity Church, Laurel. Taylor currently serves as associate pastor for youth and activities. Pictured from left are Harrison Weger, pastor; Jackie Taylor; Taylor; and Jackie Walters, chairman of deacons.

Carroll Roberson, a Mississippi evangelist, has just returned from Ireland where he ministered in several churches for about 12 days.



Roberson

Many decisions were made for Christ, and Roberson's music is being heard on radio stations in Ireland. He is planning a return trip to the United Kingdom in 1999. Roberson is a resident of Ripley. This is his tenth year in full-time evangelism.

Richard Shropshire of the Barnabas Center, a Christian counseling and conference ministry located in D'Iberville, has completed a doctor of philosophy program in Christian counseling. Shropshire is available for individual and marriage counseling, marriage enrichment conferences, revivals, and pulpit supply. He can be reached at (228) 392-2608.



Shropshire



David Dean was recently licensed to the ministry by County Line Church, Ovett. Pictured left to right are Macon Phillips, pastor; Dean; and Charlie Grantham, chairman of deacons.

Dale Wilson, Pearl, died on April 24 from a massive heart attack. Services were held April 26 at East Union Church, Pike Association, with burial in East Union Church cemetery. At his death, he was a member of First Church, Pearl.

Wilson, an Arkansas native, pastored churches in Mississippi and Louisiana for 35 years. Survivors include: wife Fay; sons, Dale Wilson Jr., Brook-

Port Gibson; daughters, Marilyn Shepherd, Jackson; and Ginger Lambert, Brandon; 12 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.



Kimble Myrick was recently ordained to the ministry by County Line Church, Ovett. Pictured left to right are Macon Phillips, pastor; Myrick; Jerry Stroo; and Charlie Grantham, chairman of deacons.

Preston Phillips was given a plaque honoring his 50th anniversary as church treasurer of First Church, haven; and Batesville, on March 29. Pictured with Phillips is Don Wilson, Alan Kilgore, pastor.

BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS



The Mississippi Beta chapter of Alpha Chi at William Carey College was named Star Chapter at the 1998 Region III Alpha Chi Conference in Montgomery, Ala. Pictured (from left) are Kristen Lewis of Quitman, president and voting delegate; Drew Evans of Mandeville, La., presenter; Janice Miller, alumni advisor; and John Miller, alumni advisor. Conference participants not pictured are Peyton Lampkin, Gulfport; and conference sponsor, Paul Cotten.

Mississippi College (MC) has set dates for its annual summer basketball camp for

HOMEcomings

Coila Church, Carroll Association, will celebrate its 175th anniversary in conjunction with Homecoming services, June 7 at 10 a.m. Guest speakers include James Clark, Starkville, and other former pastors. Special music by The Bibletones. Billy Blakely is pastor.

boys. The Choctaw Super Hoops Basketball Day Camp for grades 1-5 will be held June 15-18, 8 a.m.-noon daily. All activities will be held in the A. E. Wood Coliseum on the campus of MC. For more information, contact the Office of Continuing Education at MC (601) 925-3263.

Mississippi College recognized retiring faculty and staff recently at a reception in honor of their years of service at the Baptist university. The honorees (from left) are Sam Hall, Clinton, supervisor of campus and grounds; Edward McMillan, Clinton, vice-president for Graduate Studies and professor of history and polit-

ical science; Mrs. Leon (Annie) Browning, Clinton, bookkeeper in the Business Office; Glen Eaves, Clinton, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and professor of history; and Charles Sauls, Madison, professor in the School of Education. Not pictured is Gladys Purser, Madison, secretary at the Law School in Jackson.

The Office of Continuing Education at Mississippi College is offering a course to assist individuals who are preparing to take the June 15 offering of the Law School Admissions Test (LSAT). The

course, which offers 16 instructional hours of review, is scheduled to begin June 2 and conclude on June 13. For more information, call (601) 925-3264.



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Stain Glass • Carpet • Lights
Painting • Baptisries • Steeples
Complete Renovations

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Jackson, MS 601-957-8844

Pews, pulpits, baptisries, stained glass, carpet, steeples, lighting, folding doors, theater seats.

Van Winkle Church Furnishings & Pew Upholstery

Box 501, Fulton, MS 38843
In MS. Toll Free 1-800-624-9627



**ALL SIZES
SALES AND RENTALS**

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**#1 MANUFACTURER
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1-800-423-9826
1-601-924-1982

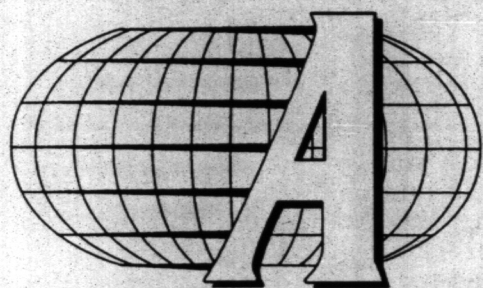
What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

May 7, 1998

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Office of Communication.



**Acteens
News**



NATIONAL ACTEENS CONVENTION

July 1-4, Louisville, Ky.

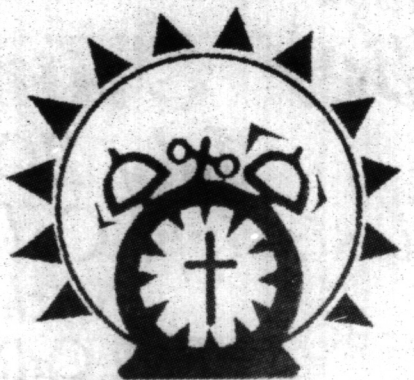
"Inside Out"

If your Acteens are attending NAC and you are not going on the state sponsored trip, please call our office to sign up for the Mississippi NAC t-shirt and Mississippi NAC fellowship by June 5, 1998 (we cannot guarantee a MS NAC t-shirt after this date).

Acteens Summer Camp

July 24 - 26

**Camp Garaywa
\$50 per person**



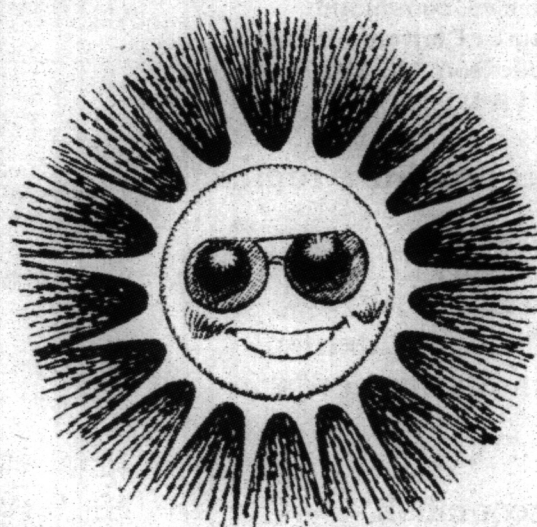
**MY DAY...
GOD'S WAY**

A weekend of mission learning and fellowship with other Acteens and Acteen leaders. A time of retreat for encouragement and growth for the leader and her Acteens. Campers will participate in Mississippi Youth Night at the Coliseum.

STATE ACTEENS PANEL

Six Acteens will be selected to serve on the 1999 State Acteens Panel which will plan and conduct state Acteens events. Panelists must have completed the 10th grade, be active in an Acteens group, agree to work on Mission Quest, attend the State Acteens Convention and attend the MS WMU Annual Meeting. Please call the WMU office for details or applications.

1-800-748-1651



**Saturday
June 27**

8:30 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.

**Parkway
Baptist Church,
Clinton**

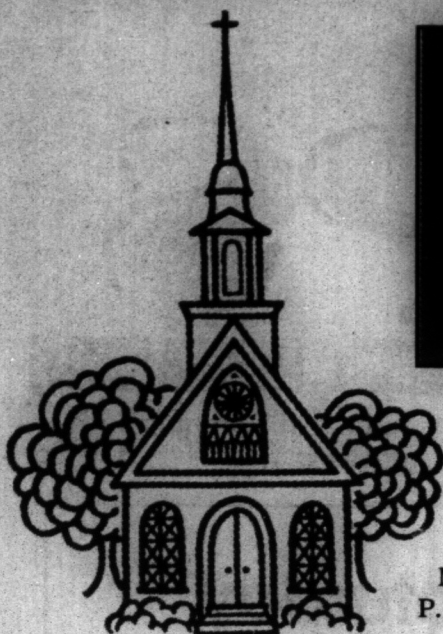
FAMILY FESTIVAL '98

An Adult Equipping Team Event

- ◆ **Seniors Events**
8:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
- ◆ **Lunch**
11:00 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.
(food booths)
- ◆ **Family Fair**
11:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- ◆ **Adult Conferences**
4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
- ◆ **Dinner**
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
- ◆ **Singles Events**
7:30 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

**Free Admission
Free Child Care**

For more information call Larry Salter, Glenn Shows, or Edna Ellison at (601)968-3800 or (800)748-1651.



Brochure available from:
Church Administration -
Pastoral Ministries Department
Julius Thompson, director
Matt Buckles, consultant
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530
Phone: (601) 968-3800

Planning for the new church year brochure topics:

- The Pastor as Leader
- The Church Leadership Team
- Gather Resources to Aid in Planning
- Write or Review Church Mission Statement
- Study the Church and Community Needs
- Select a Few Priorities
- Set Challenging Goals
- Develop Action Plans to Accomplish Your Priorities
- Develop a Correlated Church Calendar
- Build Your Church Budget
- Present Plans, Calendar, and Budget to Church for Adoption
- Meet Regularly to Review

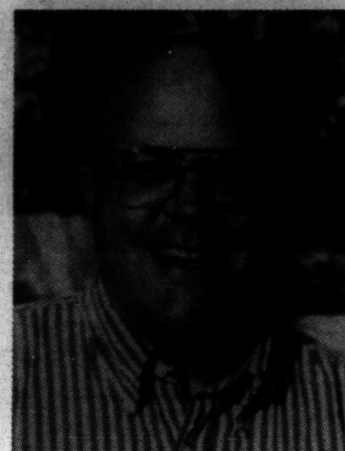
Learning about Peer Pressure

Older Children's Retreat
Gulfshore Baptist Assembly
July 16-18, 1998
Cost: \$75



This retreat is especially for children who have completed grades 4-6 and their leaders. A registration form is available in the 1998 Gulfshore Baptist Assembly Information Brochure. To obtain a brochure, call Gulfshore Baptist Assembly at (228) 452-7261.

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST YOUTH NIGHT '98



DUFFY ROBBINS

Same program —
choose one to attend

July 24, 1998 • 7 p.m.

July 25, 1998 • 10 a.m.

MISSISSIPPI
FAIRGROUNDS
COLISEUM

A LOVE OFFERING WILL BE RECEIVED (a gift of \$1 per person is suggested)

SMALL TOWN POETS



Autograph signing party at the
Baptist Bookstore
after Friday night program.
10 p.m. till midnight

*Know God—
No Fear*

Super Summer '98

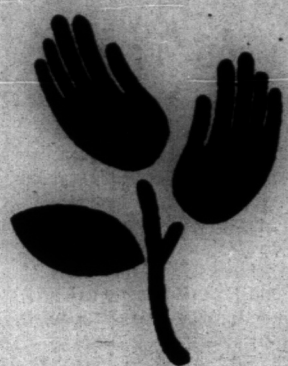
July 20-24

Mississippi College, Clinton
with
Rick Caldwell



Super Summer
Mississippi
1998

For more information, call the Discipleship and Family Ministry
Department at 1-800-748-1651.



Christian Women's Job Corps CERTIFICATION TRAINING May 21-23, 1998

University Baptist Church, Hattiesburg

CWJC helps mentor people on welfare to be self-sustaining. You must have 16 hours of training to begin the program in your area.

Contact Edna Ellison in the WMU office for more information, 1-800-748-1651

Campus Women on Mission



Come to a "Tea Party for the World"
at the WMU Building in Birmingham

May 16, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

\$5 per person

Call Mississippi WMU office at 1-800-748-1651

M & M DAY

"Down on the Farm"

Saturday, May 16

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

\$3 per person (includes lunch)



**It's just for Mission Friends
and Moms at Garaywa!**

• Activities • Games • Music

*Missionary Speakers:
Harold & Joyce Watson*

Please complete and return this registration information

M & M Day at Garaywa

Church _____ Association _____

Contact Person _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Amount Enclosed: # of persons _____ x \$3.00 = \$ _____ (total)

Please make checks payable to Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
Send to: WMU - M & M Day, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530

ASSOCIATIONAL MISSIONS WEEK

MAY 18-24

*It's an energetic, never-a-dull
moment, focused life.*

*It's life in the Baptist association
of churches.*

*It's a life created for and sustained by
an unwavering commitment to
missions -- to sharing God's love in
both word and deed.*

*Come alive -- alive to missions!
Become involved in your association of
churches today!*

CHURCHES in ASSOCIATION

Alive to Missions...



Catch the Vision!

1998 STATE SINGLES RETREAT

Celebrating 20 Years at Gulfshore

May 23-25

Gulfshore Baptist Assembly



Kim Bearden

Featuring



Gwen Williams

For more information, contact Glenn Shows, singles
consultant, Discipleship & Family Ministry Department, at
1-800-748-1651, ext. 373.

Pray this day for...

May 8-June 4, 1998

Prayer Ministry Office • P. O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 968-3800, Ext. 3904 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-PRAY

Humility in Prayer

"Humility is essential in all of the Christian life but never quite so essential as in the relationship to God in prayer. When Christians pray, they ought to compare themselves not with other Christians, but with the perfect righteousness of God. Pray that God will fill you with a sense of absolute humility."

Chester Swor in Open Windows. Nov. 3, 1941.

10
Mother's Day. Pray for ministry teams that are preparing to go into different parts of China this spring and summer. Pray that their spiritual, physical, and financial needs will be met individually and as a group.

17
Baptist Radio and Television Sunday (DBS Emphasis). Pray for spiritual awakening among the youth of Costa Rica and for the salvation of those young people who have not yet made a personal decision for Christ.

24
Pray for Christian leaders to be raised up in places of influence throughout Cyprus and to have a tremendous impact for the gospel.

31
The Hawaii Supreme Court has ruled in Baehr v. Miike that marriage is only a statement of legal status and a contract for economic benefits. This new legal marriage "construct" opens the door for any two people of any sex to "marry." Pray that this interpretation of marriage will not spread to other states.

11
Preaching/Worship Conference, Crossgates BC, Brandon. It is a joy and a responsibility to pray for Christian brothers and sisters. Lift up in prayer today Baluch believers and workers among them.

18
Brian Storey is church planter pastor of Quakertown, PA Baptist Church. Pray about the church's finances and for the finances of the families. Pray for the community. There are several cult churches that are preying on a lot of people. Pray that the evangelistic churches in the area will reach these people before the cuts do.

25
For the Reconciliation Workshop, Mt. Zion BC, Baldwin, sponsored by Missions Extension and Associational Administration. II Senior Adult Conference, 25-27th, Gulfshore Assembly, sponsored by Discipleship and Family Ministry.

1
For I Youth Conference, 1-5; Gulfshore Assembly; sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. CA Summer Camp 1-5; Camp Garaywa; sponsored by WMU.

12
Mark is a catalytic missionary in Lewistown, Montana. Pray for two new Indian works. One is on the Rocky Boy Indian Reservation, and the other is in the two of Frazer. Pray for another Hispanic work that has started in Billings.

19
Baptist representatives in Poland, Marc and Annie Byrd write: "Your intercession is vital to our effectiveness in ministry. Pray that our intimacy and dependence on the Lord will deepen each day."

26
In the midst of preparing to leave in June for her final furlough before retirement, missionary to the Philippines, Danny Stampley from Miss. has broken her wrist. Pray that God will provide the help she needs to pack up her belongings, and pray that her wrist will be completely healed before her departure date.

3
The American Family Association has been successful in persuading over 80% of sponsors to drop their advertisements on Howard Stern's vulgar radio programs broadcast in 40 markets. Praise God for people who are willing to take a stand against radio and TV programs which destroy the morals of our nation.

13
Pray that God's Word will be boldly proclaimed throughout Beijing, China, by pastors and teachers. Pray that the Holy Spirit will prepare the hearts of millions who do not yet know him to hear God's Word through radio, cassette, and on video.

20
Pray for the completion of a water development project sponsored by the Mindanao Baptist Rural Life Center in the Philippines. Pray that a sufficient water supply will be reached which will provide potable water for more than 120 families living in Malungon.

27
Pray for ministry teams that are preparing to go into different parts of China this spring and summer. Pray that their spiritual, physical, and financial needs will be met individually and as a group.

4
Ten Boer goats arrived safely at the Mindanao Baptist Rural Life Center in the Philippines. Pray that these "meat-type" goats will do much to help alleviate hunger, improve farm family income, and open doors to ministry in many rural, tribal areas.

14
Sunday School Leadership Lab; Eagle Ridge Conf. Center, Raymond; sponsored by the Sunday School Department. Missionary Stan Friesen has begun to experience a problem in one of his eyes. Pray that he will be able to receive the proper medical care for this condition.

21
Pray for ISC workers Earl and Shannon Midkiff, from Alaska, who will help with the Alaska Baptist Convention and the Russian Far East region partnership crusades in Khabarovsk while Randy and Robin Covington are on furlough.

28
For III Senior Adult Conference 28-30th; Gulfshore Assembly; sponsored by Discipleship and Family Ministry. Ask God to remove the spiritual blinders from the eyes of an unreached people group in the Philippines as a Filipino woman ministers to them.

5
Dexon Shores, San Antonio, Tex., is a church planter strategist. In a recent church start probe, 39 places were discovered where new churches are needed. There are also 71 apartment communities where new ministries are needed. Pray that God will provide the human and financial resources to extend the kingdom into these areas.

15
Special Education Retreat; Camp Garaywa; sponsored by the Sunday School Department. Missionaries John and Kathy Vaughn in Brazil asks us to pray for the Children's Club that meets every Saturday at Second Baptist Church in Caxias do Sul. Pray for more children to come and for the visitation effort to the homes of the children who do participate.

22
Debbie Nowell is a director of church and community ministries. Pray for the chaplaincy program at the Montgomery, AL Police Department. She and others are trying to raise awareness and funds to keep it going.

29
Groups from many Chinese churches east of the Mississippi River will attend a retreat at Schooco Springs Conference Grounds, Talledega, AL, May 22-24. Pray that a number of Chinese will be saved and many will rededicate themselves to Christ.

6
Pray for the Inticucho Mission located on a mountain near Quito, Ecuador. It is experiencing internal power struggles and some of their young people are being swept away by Satan worship. Pray for the young people from the Agape Center who are trying to minister to the youth in Inticucho.

9
The Bible Channel in Essex, England, is broadcasting biblical discipleship programs via satellite into the Arab/Muslim world, drawing the lost to Christ and discipling new believers. Pray that many Muslims will be led to Christ through the Bible Channel.

16
Mission Friends Fair (M&M Day); Camp Garaywa; sponsored by the WMU. Missionary Carolyn Dubberly asks you to pray for the salvation of two little boys who live next door to the Baptist Center in Montevideo, Uruguay.

23
Pray for the New Directions Workshop in Taipei, May 24-29 led by Lewis Myers and Jim Slack of the IMB. A number of missionaries from Taiwan and Hong Kong plan to attend. They will study how to implement the new strategy for reaching unreached people groups.

30
For Family Mission Blitz; FBC, Tunica; sponsored by the Equipping Team. Missionaries in Mozambique are experiencing many changes as they form ministry teams to target the unreached people groups in their country. Pray for those who are choosing which people group to focus on.

Take a moment to send a card to encourage the children of our missionaries!

2-83 MISS ALAINA C. BAKER
Apartado 61-74, Guadalajara, Jalisco, 44360, MEXICO
Parents: Kenneth & Lynn, Dentistry

2-83 MISS SARAH E. METTS
Lynx Air/Sd Dr., P. O. Box 407052, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33310
Parents: Joe Jr. & Angela, General Evangelism, SERVE IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

3-85 MISS HEATHER BROWN
P O Box 30018, Chichiri, Blantyre 3, MALAWI
Parents: John & Claudia, General Evangelism

4-83 MISS TABITHA S. FOX
Visanaia Biserica Baptist, Str. sf. Nicolae 80., Beltsy 279200, MOLDOVA
Parents: Thomas & Tammy, General Evangelism

11-83 BENJAMIN JONES
4, bis Grande Rue, 54420 Saulxures-les-Nancy, FRANCE
Parents: Michael & Pamela, Church Starting

11-87 MISS ANDERA J. HENDRICKS
Apartado 1010-7050, Cartago, COSTA RICA
Parents: Larry & Mary, General Evangelism

13-85 MISS RACHEL L. GRAVES
211 Brook Avenue, South, Starkville, MS 39759
Parents: Edgar & Marilyn, General Evangelism, SERVE IN CHILE

13-89 MR. JOSHUA BROWN
P O Box 30018, Chichiri, Blantyre 3, MALAWI
Parents: John & Claudia, General Evangelism

17-80 MISS HANNAH SONG
431 Tee Street, Biloxi, MS 39532
Parents: Woong Ho & Sook Ja, Field Personnel Assistance

20-87 MR. ANDREW F. BAILEY
Apartado 1135, 01901 Ciudad de Guatemala, GUATEMALA
Parents: Alvin & Elizabeth, Music Promotion

20-87 MR. MAX HUTCHINSON
CP 801, Bissau, Guinea Bissau, WEST AFRICA
Parents: Michael & Lynn, Church Planters

20-93 MR. CHRISTOPHER L. CURTIS
B.P. 130, Tenkodogo, BURKINA FASO
Parents: Clifton F. & Cathy P., Agriculture

21-82 MISS EMILY F. PARKER
P O Box 943, Brandon, MS 39043
Parents: Jeffrey & Shiela, General Evangelism, SERVE IN UNITED KINGDOM

26-78 MR. VINCENT C. JOHNSTON
P O Box 4066, Clinton, MS 39058
Parents: Vincent & Sharon, Conference/Encampment, SERVE IN BRAZIL

30-80 MR. NATHAN C. COLLINS
c/o ACS Suriname, P. O. Box 02-5567, Miami, FL 33102-5567
Parents: Charles & E. Suzanne, General Evangelism

30-82 MISS ASHLEY N. PEVEY
Box 39727, Nairobi, KENYA
Parents: Frank & Beth, Mission Administration



HOUSE TOPS

EXEC SEARCH BEGINS

Editor:

Since being elected as executive secretary of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), Bill Causey has led, worked with, and challenged Mississippi Baptists in carrying out our mission of bringing Mississippi and the world to Jesus.

As you know, Dr. Causey has announced his retirement effective September 30, 1998.

You have given the MBCB executive committee the responsibility of submitting to you a nominee for your election as executive secretary.

We believe that God has invited us to work with him to recommend the person he has chosen for this position.

The assignment will require faith and action. If we will obey God, his will shall be accomplished. Would you please pray daily for each member of the executive committee?

You are invited to submit to us, in writing, the name, address, and telephone number of any person you feel would be qualified to serve as executive secretary.

Please send the letter to the address listed below.

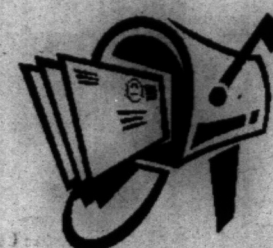
The executive committee will contact, by letter, each person you nominate and they will be asked to submit a resume to the executive committee.

June 4, 1998, has been set as

the cutoff date for receiving nominations. June 18, 1998, has been set as the cutoff date for nominees to submit their resumes.

This notice will appear in "The Baptist Record" on May 7, 14, 21, and 28, 1998.

Robert K. Upchurch, chairman
MBCB Executive Committee
P.O. Drawer 409
Tupelo, MS 38802



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

Staying Well

Faith and Prayer Help Fight Cancer

Sharon Hatton of Hattiesburg is a testament to the power of prayer. Given a few months to live in 1996 due to colon and liver cancer, she is today an example of God's power to give the hope to carry on despite incredible odds.

A wife and mother of three, Sharon was diagnosed with colon cancer in 1996. The cancer soon metastasized to her liver and doctors gave her no more than three months to live. Side effects of treatment led to infections that nearly took her life. "I did not know you could be so sick and live," she said. After a brief remission, the cancer returned in January and brought her to Baptist Medical Center for chemotherapy. Since her initial diagnosis, she has received treatments in Hattiesburg, New Orleans, Houston, Texas and Pittsburgh, Pa., and finally at Baptist. She reports that she's found Baptist's cancer treatment team to be efficient, friendly and professional, the equal of any program in the country. "I won't go anywhere but Baptist from now on," she explains. "This is where I need to be."

Sharon has a message for those who would give up hope in situations such as hers - look for meaning in God's purpose. "God just gives me the strength to deal with this," she says. "I feel privileged He has touched my life. For as many days as the Lord keeps me here, I want to serve Him. Just to share what God has done for me, and give Him the glory for it. I've been so grateful to the Lord for holding me," she adds. "Twice I've been through the valley of death, and He's carried me through. He never left me."

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SEEKING INTERN

Editor,

My wife, Mary Jo, and I are SBC missionaries in Stuttgart, Germany.

We arrived at the International Baptist Church after language school in Oct. 1997.

We are here to help the church become self supporting and to develop a leadership training process.

The church has utilized interns in the past and we are looking for a year-long music/youth intern to assist in one of Europe's best international churches.

For more information please contact Gary Merkel, pastor, by e-mail at Gary_MaryJoMerkel@compuserve.com

Gary V. Merkel
Stuttgart, Germany

CHURCH INFO NEEDED

Editor:

Freedom Baptist Church in the Myrick Community out from Laurel, will be holding their 50th Anniversary/ Homecoming celebration in October.

If anyone in the state has had any association with Freedom Church during the past 50 years, such as pastor, pastor's wife, member, charter member, or families of these listed above, please notify us at (601) 428-1955, 428-7858 or 428-5777.

We need names, addresses and any memorabilia, such as photos, recipes, etc., that you would like to share at your convenience.

We are planning memory books and cookbooks to be published to commemorate this occasion.

Robby Johnson, pastor
Freedom Church, Laurel



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"ANSWERING THE CALL TO A SOUTHERN GOSPEL SOLO MINISTRY"



Bess Hines receives a big hug from **Gene Gillis**, pastor of Cleary Church, Florence, where Hines is a member, during a party given to her in honor of her 99th birthday. Gillis states, "what a joy it is to know our senior citizens in their golden years!"

Bala Chitto Church, Magnolia, will celebrate its 125th anniversary on May 31 at 11 a.m. Leroy Stringfield, former pastor, will be preaching and reminiscing, and the Bala Chitto Chorus will present special music. A dinner on the grounds will follow the service.

"Asthma Super Saturday" will be held Sat. May 23, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at Briarwood Presbyterian Church. The free event, open to all kids and their parents, is sponsored by Baptist Health Systems, the American Lung Association of Mississippi and the Mississippi Asthma Collaborative. Asthma Super Saturday is an annual event designed to raise awareness of asthma, ways to treat it, and to share information among parents. Physicians will be on hand to answer questions and provide information. Registration is requested by May 15. To register, or for more information, call 948-6262 or (800) 948-6262.

Second Church, Greenville, is currently seeking all former staff and church members for their 60th year anniversary scheduled on July 19. Please contact the church office at (601) 335-3343 or write Second Baptist Church, 1407 East Reed Road, Greenville, MS 38703, Attn: Lara Johnson.

Neshoba County Ministerial Association in partnership with the Neshoba Central Chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes hosted a "Power Team" Crusade during the week of April 15-19. Forty churches, including 12 denominations and three ethnic groups, joined together to reach out to the youth of Neshoba and surrounding counties. The five day crusade



Coila Church, Carroll Association, held a ground breaking for a new fellowship hall in February. Taking part in the ceremony are (from left) Raymond Story, Charles Noel, Libby Noel, Billy Blakely, Cleo Ainsworth, Lisa Cheek, Mike Wiltshire, Janet Gray, Joyce Conner, Jim Gray, Martha Ainsworth, Ron Ballard, Audine Everett, and Lucille Alford. Billy Blakely is pastor.

resulted in 1,085 public decisions, including over 600 professions of faith. Follow up continues with the goal of baptizing and involving those making professions in local churches. The "Team" was able to minister in 14 schools in a five county area.

A First Place Workshop will be held at Northcrest Church, 3412 North Hills Street, Meridian, on Sat., June 13 from 8:30 a.m. until 2:15 p.m. Reservations are required. For information call Carol Moore at 485-6951 or 483-8506

STAFF CHANGES

Gracewood Church, Southaven, has called **Bill King** as pastor effective May 3. King received his master of divinity and doctor of ministry degrees from New Orleans Seminary. He has received two Eagle Awards from the Alabama Baptist Convention for building the Sunday School at his church. His previous place of service was White Springs Church, Rainbow City, Ala.

First Church, Lumberton, has called **Johnny H. Breazeale** as pastor effective May 11.

Breazeale is a graduate of William Carey College and New Orleans Seminary. He is currently enrolled as a doctor of ministry student at Southwestern Seminary. His previous place of service was Rock Hill Church, Mt. Olive.

Springhill Church, Waterford, called **Larry A. Dukes** as pastor effective April 5. Dukes is a native of Magee and a graduate of Blue Mountain College. His previous place of service was Canaan Church, Ashland.

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The **Mississippi Baptist Secretaries Association** elected officers at its annual meeting April 13-14 at Camp Garaywa in Clinton. The officers for 1998-99 are (from left) Dot Simmons, Gulf Coast Association, president; Sandi Komurke, First Church, Madison, first vice-president; Vivian Taylor, Wayne Association, second vice-president; Lacey Hubbard, First Church, Magee, secretary-treasurer.

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POSITION AVAILABLE: Full-time music and activities director. Please send resumes to Calvary Baptist Church 2878 Olda Highway 27, Vicksburg, MS 39180. Telephone: 601-636-7501.

YOUTH & EDUCATION MINISTER: First Baptist Church of Fannin is searching to full this full time position. A great opportunity near the reservoir. Send resumes to Search Committee, FBC of Fannin, 101 Church Rd., Brandon, MS 39042.

FULL-TIME DIRECTOR OF MUSIC AND EDUCATION: First Baptist Byram. Send resume to 7541 Siwell Road, Jackson, MS 39212.

JUST FOR THE RECORD



Center Grove Church, Maben, held ground breaking services for an additional classroom building in March. Members pictured are: (left to right) Lynda Tuck, Maurice Hillhouse, Bob Head, Orville Douglas, James Lewis, Ronnie Lewis, Ronnie McMinn, and Bobbie Scarbrough.



A mission team from **First Church, Columbus,** recently traveled to Haiti to work with missionaries. The team conducted Vacation Bible School, school for pastors and deacons, and constructed an addition to a church that doubled the capacity. The team consisted of back row, left to right: S.B. Platt, Johnny Presley, Ray Holland, Everett Presley, Sammy Platt, Andrea Boulet, Helen Reed, Wesley Platt, front row: Glenda Gross and Marty Mullins. Bobby Douglas is pastor.



LABORERS TOGETHER — Members of the University of Mississippi's BSU work to repair a home in Birmingham, Ala.

Twenty-seven students and Baptist Student Union (BSU) director, Keith Cating, from the University of Mississippi traveled to Birmingham, Ala., March 6-13 to minister to two low-income homeowners whose homes were in need of repair. In addition to replacing a roof and eaves, painting inside and out, and repairing a bathroom, the group found time to work in two soup kitchens, a rescue for homeless mothers and children, two nursing homes and

participated in two church worship services. Those who participated were: Jocey Adkins; Aubrey Barton; Keith Cating, director; Heather Chambliss; Jennifer Curry; Kevin Cuthbertson; Colby Dickson; Carolyn Dyer; Bethany Hall; Shirley Hamilton; Laura Heller; Thomas Herington; Mandy Huckaba; Kathy King; Elizabeth Lee; Shelly McCarthy; Marsha McCullar; Elizabeth Monteith; Trent Peacock; Brandylyn Pearson; Jamie Pennington; Annette Reese; Lee Sharp; Holly Strachan; Jeff Wells; Sammy Wells; Albert White; and Jamie Wicker.

REVIVAL DATES

Arrowood, Meridian: May 7-9; 7 p.m. nightly; Danny Lanier, Meridian, evangelist.

Coila, Carroll Association: June 8-12; 7:30 p.m.; Bob Blakely, Jackson, evangelist; Wilton Neal, North Carrollton, music; Billy Blakely, pastor.

New Hope Church, Starkville: May 17-20; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m. Speakers: Knapp Clark, Starkville; Dale Walker, Sturgis; Bob McDonald, Starkville; and Mike Stevens, Columbus; David C. Holston, pastor.

Crystal Ridge, (Winston): May 10-13; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7:30 p.m.; Chris Snowden, Ada, Okla., evangelist for Sunday services; Gerald Walker, Gulfport, evangelist for Monday through Wednesday; Wayne Hill, pastor.



Members of the University of Mississippi's BSU



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2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. *(I repent.)*
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. *(I believe in Jesus.)*
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with him. *(I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)*

But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name (John 1:12).

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for

Offering goals exceeded

Phalti Church, Covington-Jeff Davis Association, had a goal of \$600 for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. The total offering received was \$3,440. The church also sent 80 cans of food to Montgomery Village Baptist Center in Knoxville, Tenn., for their food pantry.

Cloverdale Church, Natchez, exceeded its goal of \$1,800 for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. The church gave a total of \$2,230. Cloverdale also exceeded its \$4,500 goal for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering with a final total of \$5,369. Ida M. Coley, WMU director. David Megufee, pastor.

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FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

Traditions

Mark 7:1-13

By Grace Graham

Adults tend to resent people who do not follow commonly accepted traditions. The dictionary defines tradition as a belief or custom transmitted by word of mouth from age to age or religious doctrine preserved orally from generation to generation.

Evaluating tradition (7:1-5). Oral traditions were preserved and were passed on because the life needs of the community were being met. People hold on to things that are meaningful and meet their needs. God used processes which met human needs to preserve his inspired Word.

The scribes had made a "fence about the law." They

gave very specific instructions about most human actions so that one would be stopped by the "fence" before ever actually breaking one of God's commands. The law of the scribes had eventually been put on equal footing with God's law. This gave a legalistic appearance to the law, so that it was the "letter" and not the "spirit" which was emphasized.

The pharisees and scribes watched the disciples carefully and found that they were eating with unclean hands. This had nothing to do with sanitary washing. All the Jews that held to strict tradition washed their hands after going to the market place because they might have

been in contact with something ritually unclean. Mark explains all of this in verses 3 and 4 so that the Gentiles would understand.

They asked Jesus the reason he and his disciples did not follow the ancient tradition of ceremonially washing hands before eating. Jesus responded by quoting scripture.

Evaluating tradition (7:6-8). Do you have an eye for traditions that are contrary to God's word? Jesus charges the pharisees with being hypocrites who allowed human traditions to take the place of God's commands. Were they conscious of their hypocrisy? Possibly not, but they were inviting men to maintain proper relationship with God by way of external rules.

No one comes to God in this way! Isaiah 29:13 describes this very problem. The keeping of tradition was a means of exter-

nal praise to God without any commitment of the heart to true worship. Think about this as you worship this week. Do you go through the motions of worship or do you give yourself to God in worship, heart and all?

Condemning tradition (7:9-13). It can be easy to find excuses to avoid inconveniencing ourselves. Jesus talked of this type of behavior. He gave the example of a seemingly godly tradition that allowed adults to violate the command of God to honor their parents.

At the very heart of the law, giving honor to parents is commanded. But typical of the way the religious leaders twisted the law, it was possible to vow to the temple all of the money that would normally have been set aside for the future helping of parents.

"Corban" was a gift that was dedicated to God and could be used for no other purpose. It became common practice for

people to declare all of their assets as corban in order to avoid their responsibilities.

Jesus used this example but made it clear that this was one of many. If the commandment of God is rejected with this end in sight, then it is obvious that the tradition is merely human and is opposed to God's purpose.

We have many traditions today that are not necessarily prescribed for us in God's word. Does this mean that these are wrong? Remember, people hold on to things that are meaningful and meet their life needs. God can use our traditions to reveal himself as well as give us tools to grow and to worship.

This week evaluate our traditions. Are we ignoring the commands of God by the traditions of men? Obeying the Word of God is more important than human tradition.

Graham is Childhood Education Director at First Church, Gulfport.

LIFE AND WORK

Family responsibilities

Genesis 14:1,3,7a; Esther 2:7,11;
Proverbs 31:26-29; Ephesians 6:1-4

By Jim Burnett

Today's lesson begins a four-week study entitled "The Biblical Concept of Family," which will help us answer some important questions about the family and offer us insight as to how we can have stronger, healthier, more godly homes.

The family is the best thing society has going. If the home life of more Americans was rooted in Christianity and the Bible, society would experience a great transformation. Revival perhaps would sweep our land.

God has a plan and always has for individual families. Under his lordship, your family and mine can impact many. We are his change agents. Our positive influence, however, on

this world is only as strong as our commitment to Jesus.

Mutual obligations (Eph. 6:1-4). Our relationship with Jesus transfers into every area of living, including family life. The apostle Paul gives parents and children some guidelines for home life.

Christian homes are to exhibit the Lordship of Christ. What does that mean? First it means that the children in the home must respect their parents. God's desire is that all children willingly submit to the authority of their moms and dads. In fact to disobey is equivalent of disobeying God.

A second characteristic of a home that exhibits the lordship of Christ is fathers and mothers respecting their children. Paul

explicitly warns dads not to be too rigid and domineering with their children. Although our sons and daughters need discipline and correction, they also need forgiveness and an understanding parent who sees their worth even when they have done wrong.

Heritage and respect (Gen. 47:1,3,7a,10). Currently America is in a serious crisis of respect. Children are in open rebellion toward their parents, using guns and knives to cut the ties. Kids are employing lawyers in an attempt to legally sever the custodial rights of parents. Society only fans the flames of disrespect.

Today it is considered prehistoric or inhumane to ask a child to respond, "yes sir or no sir, yes ma'am or no ma'am." Therefore, Joseph's admiration and respect for his aged father, Jacob, and his love toward siblings is inspiring. How we in our western civilization need to relearn the fine art of respect toward others, especially our

families. Let us stop taking our parents, our brothers, and our sisters for granted. Appreciate your roots and strengthen the ties that bind. And remember your respect for parents and siblings is a reflection of your respect toward your heavenly Father.

Once a parent, always a parent (Esth. 2:7,11). Mordecai serves as a good role model for parents today, especially parents who have adopted children.

Mordecai pledged to support Esther, his uncle's daughter, who had no parents and adopted her as his daughter. His parental love and affection for her is clearly seen in his daily habit of walking by her residence to check on her welfare. I would wager that Esther appreciated and looked forward to his passing by every day. Mordecai never stopped being her daddy even after she was married. His bond with Esther, his daughter, was a perpetual one.

Parents, keep being fathers and mothers to your daughters and sons. Oh, I know that

sometimes your advice seems unwanted. But we are listening. And we would miss you sorely if you were gone.

Children, keep being sons and daughters to your parents. Care for them and express to them your love and appreciation.

Family priorities and affirmations (Pr. 31:26-29). Words that describe the woman in these passages are wise, kind, hard-working, respected, and appreciated.

This was a mother and wife who enjoyed living. She imparted wisdom to her children, showered them with affirmation, and met their daily needs as well as her husband's. As a result, her children, husband, and community cherished and praised her.

Mothers and fathers, what kind of impressions are you leaving on your children and community? Are you teaching your children godly priorities? Are you affirming your children daily no matter their age?

Burnett is pastor of Raymond Road Church, Jackson.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Problems in the church

I Corinthians 1:1-2, 10-13, 18, 26-31

By Harold W. Simmons

While Paul worked in Ephesus, he received news of a rift in the church at Corinth. Paul wrote to the Christians in Corinth and in all likelihood sent the letter by ship to Corinth.

From the ancient port of Ephesus, which is about 7 miles from the sea today, to Corinth was about eight days of sailing in Paul's day. Paul knew that a break in fellowship of a church was dangerous.

Set Apart by Christ and for Christ (1:1-2) Paul wanted the readers to understand who he

was. He wanted them to know that he was a person with authority that had been delegated by Jesus. Very literally, he had been invited (called) to be an apostle.

Because Paul had accepted the invitation to be an apostle, he had the right to write to them in Christ's stead. He addresses them as the "called out ones" (the ecclesia or church). He is reminding them to whom they belong.

Church dissension is settling for less (1:10-13) After reminding the Corinthians that

they were the church, Paul begins to deal with the announced division. He knew the Corinthians had taken their eyes off Jesus and put their eyes on men who were only representatives of Christ. The Corinthian Christians were missing the point.

Christ had made their salvation available, not the pastors of the church. They were settling for a lot less than they could have. Church splits always settle for less.

The Cross: foolishness or wisdom? (1:18) "It is all in how you look at things." This little saying is nothing new to us or to Paul. For some people the message of the cross is foolish. This perspective comes from a person who must deny the power

of the cross in order to avoid facing the message. For the person who "is being saved," the message is powerful. This perspective comes from one who has experienced salvation.

The folly of boastful pride (1:26-29) A seminary classmate of mine had the family name of Bragg. One of our professors continually called Bro. Bragg by the name of Bro. Bray. When someone in the class corrected the professor by saying, "Sir, his name is Bragg not Bray." The professor replied, "Bray, Bragg, what's the difference?" Paul says that men cannot brag of their righteousness because righteousness comes from God. It is a gift to us, not an accomplishment about which we can brag.

Boasting only in the Lord (1:30-31) Any bragging must give God the glory not

mankind. God did everything in love for us. The only bragging we can do is to tell others how much God loves us.

God speaks to us. Drawing lines defines boundaries. When boundaries are drawn in churches that differentiate between Christians, the fellowship is broken. When certain cultural practices that are not in keeping with the will of God creep into churches, Christianity becomes something less than God meant it to be. I believe that God also wants us to understand that pastoral authority is given by God and regulated by God. Pastoral authority is valid only so long as the pastor is speaking and representing the truth which God has revealed.

Simmons is pastor of Hebron Church, Grenada.

THE VILLAGE VIEW

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Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of **The Village View** is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

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Mrs. Dorothea Mattox
Mr. & Mrs. William Boyd
Mrs. Barbara Cochran
Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Brannon
Mr. & Mrs. Ed Stanford
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Community volunteers from Delphi Packard Electric, Clinton, hosted an Easter egg hunt for the children at the India Nunnery campus.

Multi-racial outreach part of BreakOut '98

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (BP) — A multiracial group of 120 Baptist college students took to the beaches of Daytona April 17-19, sharing their faith among the thousands attending the Black College Reunion (BCR) spring break weekend.



REACHING OUT — Baptist Student Union members Toya Stevenson (right) and Calvin Daniels (left) share the gospel with "Joe," a young man from Buffalo, N.Y., during the Black College Reunion BeachReach project at Daytona Beach. Joe prayed to accept Christ as Lord and Savior. (Photo by Gibbs Frazeur, North American Mission Board)

Bibliocipher

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HYP LF D FTLALN: DEP
NUQI NUDN MYAFULT
ULO OVFN MYAFULT ULO
LE FTLALN DEP LE NAVNU.
GYUE BYVA: NMQENI-BYVA

Clue: V = U

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Romans Eight Ten.

opportunities for participating students. According to NSM consultant Bob Hartman, 839 collegians participated in the three BreakOut events, and 132 professions of faith were recorded.

The North American Mission Board (NAMB) and Florida Baptist Convention also were sponsors of the Black College Reunion event, the first Southern Baptist evangelism effort at an African-American spring break venue.

The first full day of the event found students fanning out across the beaches and streets conducting spiritual opinion surveys, passing out tracts and otherwise finding opportunities to share their faith. They also passed out flyers for the Urban Block Party planned for the next day at City Island Park about a mile from the beaches.

The nine-hour event on April 18, sponsored by the NAMB, included performances by some of the top names in gospel and Christian rap music and a number of door prize as drawing cards.

Plans were made for thousands, but registration peaked at just over 500 for the day and many of those were local residents. The low attendance was not unique to the block party. A major secular concert the night before at the same location also drew only a small crowd, prompting relocation of another heavily promoted concert the following night.

NAMB officials said organizers had assured them the park location would be a center of activity. As it happened, Black College Reunion activity was almost exclusively on the beaches and nearby streets, as well as the bridge leading to the beaches from the mainland.

The primary activity appeared to be "seeing and being seen." Students passed the time in traffic visiting between the cars, posing for photos and video, listening to music, and occasionally exposing themselves for the cameras.

Despite the environment, volunteers said the first day in particular gave them exciting opportunities for sharing their faith. About 20 people prayed to receive Christ that day. Seeds of the gospel were planted in others as volunteers shared their faith, and there were frequent huddles on the beaches as Baptist Student Union students prayed with spring break participants.

"It was great just meeting people and seeing them from a different perspective," said Roger Wright, a white student at Stetson University in nearby DeLand. "I expected far worse, and the people were great. They were really polite."

Amy Hunsucker, a student at Florida State University, said that she too was pleasantly surprised.

"What I saw was not what I expected to see," she said. "When you see some of these guys you think they are going to be tough and hard, but they weren't. ... It was very surprising to me, just because of the whole atmosphere."

Florida State University's Bernard, a Haitian-American, said the experience was markedly different from his experiences a month earlier during a BeachReach in Panama City.

There, he said, the favored activity appeared to be alcohol consumption.

The African-American students — possibly because they were not drunk and possibly because they were not as influenced by other religious groups — seemed to be more willing to talk about their spiritual condition.

"I think a lot of them would have come to the block party, but everybody was going toward the beach and our thing was away from the beach. And a lot of them told me, 'We're not going back,'" he said.

Herb Brisbane, multicultural consultants manager in evangelism for NAMB and coordinator of the block party, noted a statement by New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

president Charles Kelley in assessing the strategy for the weekend.

"He said that Southern Baptists are a harvest-oriented people, but we're living in a non-seeded generation," Brisbane said, noting many people know virtually nothing about God.

The event was successful not only because of the lives that were changed, he said, but also because of the lessons learned that will make next year's effort stronger.

Loy W. Reed, director of student ministries for the Florida Baptist Convention, said he was encouraged by the "holy boldness" exhibited by the students.

"Every day we went out and asked that God would protect our eyes and our hearts," he said, "and I was so proud of these kids because they absolutely went out there with holiness, they shared Christ unashamedly, and they were just not intimidated."

The SSB's Hartman also reiterated the enthusiasm and excitement of the students as they crossed racial barriers to share Christ in a manner never attempted before.

"In talking with campus ministers and students, to a person they all said they'd be back next year," he said.



LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

As Christian parents, how do we respond to our adult daughter who leads a sinful lifestyle? We pray for her but don't know how to handle our hurt and anger.

You are taking the first and most important step when you pray for her. She is still your child, but you don't have the influence over her that you had when she was younger and you were in control.

However, your influence is still very important, so stay as involved as possible. It may take years for her to wake up and begin to make proper choices.

The hurt and anger that you feel is from the unmet expectation that your daughter would do everything right.

Don't lash out because you are hurt and angry. Let your daughter know how hurt you are (she already knows, but keep reminding her). Keep loving her as a parent loves an adult child, and give it more time.

A word of advice: It's probably going to get worse before it gets better, so be prepared to hang in there.

I was date-raped by a "friend," and I want to drop out of college until I get myself back together. How do I tell my parents of my intentions?

If you share a strong relationship with your parents and believe they are willing to help, tell them directly. If you don't have that type of relationship or believe they will overreact, enlist a trusted family friend to help communicate with them.

Unfortunately, parents tend to react before receiving all the information, due largely to their own insecurities and fears.

By giving them a little forewarning, using "I" statements, and maintaining calm, you can soften the impact of the bombshell you are about to drop on them.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.